



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

ALBUQUERQUE AREA OFFICE

P.O. BOX 8327

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87108

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HANSON & Taylor

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Authorized by: SE

Date: 6/25/13

MAY 29 1981

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MAY 27 1981

Mr. John J. Ward
Hydro Geo Chem, Inc.
744 N. Country Club
Tucson, Arizona 85716

Dear Mr. Ward:

We have reviewed your memorandum of April 20, 1981, regarding the water quality monitoring program.

Your proposed plan outline for monitoring the Rio San Jose, Kerr-McGee, Bohum, Exxon and Conoco mine sites, and the Sohio Mine and Hill appears to be well suited to the study's present needs.

We agree with you and Mr. Taylor that monitoring downstream of the Jackpile Mine area is important but that any monitoring work should be coordinated with other monitoring being done, particularly that being done by the U.S. Geological Survey, to avoid duplicate efforts.

Regarding monitoring downstream of Ideal Basic Industries' La Ventana Coal Plant, we should not assume that none of their process water will reach Laguna lands. San Mateo's dewatering water flows more than 50 miles south of the discharge point. While some of La Ventana's water may sink in or seasonally evaporate before reaching Laguna lands, we are confident that the majority of it will remain in the Rio Puerco through the Pueblo.

We are uncertain what you are proposing for artificial tracer testing. We would like to see a tracer test done as called for in the modified agreement between the Pueblo and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. As you note, monitoring a tailings pond may prove very difficult without the cooperation of the Environmental Improvement Division or Environmental Protection Agency and the mine. Such action should be discussed with those agencies. As we discussed earlier, the possibility of a



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smaller-scale field trial using Pueblo waters, ponds, silted-in dams, or canal structures should also be pursued and a suitable Pueblo site proposed if a mine site cannot be arranged. One possible problem with tracer testing is the long duration of such tests. An extension of the contract time allotted to this phase of the work is possible.

Your proposal to use environmental tracers above and below Jackpile should provide very useful data. Will these show a unique indication (fingerprint) of the source of pollution or can they be variously interpreted? We would be pleased to see both artificial and environmental tracers demonstrated in this area.

Thank you for the excellent attention and careful thought you have given to this study. Please call Peter Balleau at 766-3167 if more discussion is needed.

Sincerely yours,

Sidney L. Mills

Area Director

cc: Mr. Lester Taylor